

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This response responds to the Office Action dated August 9, 2007, in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner acknowledge the claimed foreign priority and receipt of the priority documents in the parent application.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Kawai* (U.S. Patent No. 6,414,716).

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). The claims have been reviewed in light of the Office Action, and for reasons which will be set forth below, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claims and allows the claims to issue.

Applicants respectfully point out that the U.S. filing date of *Kawai* is November 18, 1997. However, the claimed invention claims priority from Japanese Application 9-103455 filed April 21, 1997 and Japanese Application 9-261827 filed September 26, 1997. Both of the dates of the priority documents are prior to the U.S. filing date of *Kawai*. Attached to this response are certified translations of the two Japanese priority documents. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 05-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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